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Application No. 10/074,019
Response dated 03/07/2007
Docket No. 0120-023

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the order of datagrams, the datagrams being processed by at least one processing engine, said at least one processing engine having at least one input port and at least one output port, wherein each datagram or each group of datagrams has a ticket associated therewith by a ticket dispenser, and wherein processors in the at least one processing engine, once they become available, ~~interrogate the ticket dispenser to take the next ticket from the ticket dispenser~~ and use it to control the order of the datagram or group of datagrams at the at least one input port of the processing engine and at the at least one output port of the processing engine.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the order of the datagrams or group of datagrams at the at least one input port corresponds to the order of the datagrams at the at least one output port.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the tickets comprise numerical values.

Application No. 10/074,019
Response dated 03/07/2007
Docket No. 0120-023

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket comprises a semaphore with data associated therewith.

5. (Currently Amended) A processing engine for processing datagrams in a predetermined order, the processing engine comprising at least one input port, at least one output port and a plurality of processing elements, each processing element comprising an input port connected to the at least one input port of the processing engine, an output port connected to the at least one output port of the processing engine and arithmetic and logic means, and a ticket dispenser adapted to associate a ticket with each incoming datagram, ~~and to be interrogated by~~ the processing elements, once the processing elements become available, ~~to take~~ taking the next available ticket from the ticket dispenser; the order of processing datagrams being controlled at the at least one input port of the processing engine and at the at least one output port of the processing engine in dependence on a said ticket associated with the datagram or a group of the datagrams.

6. (Original) A processing engine according to claim 5, wherein the processing element comprises an element of a multi threaded array processing engine.

7. (Original) A processing engine according to claim 5, wherein the processing element can leave or enter the predetermined order.

Application No. 10/074,019
Response dated 03/07/2007
Docket No. 0120-023

8. (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising a plurality of processing engines for processing datagrams in a predetermined order, each processing engine comprising at least one input port, at least one output port and a plurality of processing elements, each processing element comprising an input port connected to the at least one input port of the processing engine, an output port connected to the at least one output port of the processing engine and arithmetic and logic means, and a ticket dispenser adapted to associate a ticket with each incoming datagram, ~~and to be interrogated by~~ the processing elements, once the processing elements become available, ~~to take~~ taking the next available ticket from the ticket dispenser; the order of processing datagrams being controlled at the at least one input port of the processing engine and at the at least one output port of the processing engine in dependence on a said ticket associated with the datagram or a group of the datagrams.

9. (Original) A processing system according to claim 8, wherein datagrams are processed in a round robin manner.

10. Canceled.

11. (Previously Presented) A processing system according to claim 9, wherein the tickets are issued on a first come first served basis.

Application No. 10/074,019
Response dated 03/07/2007
Docket No. 0120-023

12. (Previously Presented) A processing system according to claim 8, further comprising a counter for maintaining the value of the current ticket.

13. (Original) A processing system according to claim 12, wherein the counter comprises storage means for storing a numerical value.

14. (Original) A processing system according to claim 13, wherein once a processing element is allocated a datagram or group of datagrams for processing, the counter is incremented or decremented.